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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for additional residency slots in children's hospitals graduate medical education programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SMUCKER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for additional residency slots in children's hospitals graduate medical education programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Strengthening our Pe-
5 diatric Workforce Act of 2017".

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Our nation is facing a critical physician
2 shortage.

3 (2) The predicted supply of pediatric medical
4 specialists is not expected to meet demand over the
5 next ten years, which may make it more difficult to
6 provide children with complex or special health con-
7 ditions the care they need.

8 (3) Current Children’s Hospital Graduate Med-
9 ical Education (CHGME) funding helps compensate
10 for the imbalance in amount of available funding for
11 children’s teaching hospitals in comparison to other
12 teaching hospitals.

13 (4) The purpose of this Act is to further sup-
14 port and strengthen the Children’s Hospital Grad-
15 uate Medical Education (CHGME) payment pro-
16 gram by providing additional assistance targeted at
17 children’s specialty care.

18 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR ADDITIONAL RESIDENCY SLOTS IN**
19 **CHILDREN’S HOSPITALS GRADUATE MEDICAL**
20 **EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

21 Section 340E of the Public Health Service Act (42
22 U.S.C. 256e) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing new subsection:

24 “(i) GRANT PROGRAM FOR ADDITIONAL RESIDENCY
25 SLOTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
2 through the Administrator of the Health Resources
3 and Services Administration, may, for a year (begin-
4 ning with 2018), make grants to—

5 “(A) children’s hospitals with approved
6 graduate medical residency training programs
7 that are otherwise receiving funding under this
8 section for such year, for the direct expenses
9 and indirect expenses associated with operating
10 such program with respect to increasing the
11 number of slots for qualifying full-time equiva-
12 lent residents that exceed the limitation on the
13 number of full-time equivalent residents under
14 subparagraph (F) of section 1886(h)(4) of the
15 Social Security Act, as applied pursuant to the
16 previous provisions of this section, including for
17 such purpose with respect to pediatric-related
18 combined specialty programs recognized by an
19 American Board of Medical Specialties; and

20 “(B) children’s hospitals for the start up
21 costs associated with establishing an approved
22 graduate medical training program for quali-
23 fying full-time equivalent residents.

24 “(2) QUALIFYING FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT
25 RESIDENTS.—For purposes of this subsection, the

1 term ‘qualifying full-time equivalent resident’ means
2 a full-time equivalent resident in pediatric medical
3 subspecialties, or pediatric surgical specialties.

4 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
5 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
6 this subsection, not more than \$10,000,000 for each
7 of fiscal years 2018 through 2025.”.